

REMARKS

Applicants note that the status of claim 40 is not indicated in the Disposition of Claims section of the Office Action. Applicants' representative contacted the Examiner to determine the status of claim 40. The Examiner indicated that the exclusion of claim 40 in the Disposition of Claims section was merely a typographical error, and that claim 40 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) by virtue of its inclusion in the list of rejected claims specified in the Detailed Action. However, the Examiner did not provide detailed reasoning for the rejection of claim 40 in the Detailed Action.

Claim Rejections

Claims 16-19, 21-23, 25, 26, 34, 35, 40-47 and 49-52 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,867,961 to Choi ("Choi") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,804,861 to Hsu ("Hsu"). Applicants have amended claim 16 and 40, and respectfully submit that these claim amendments are supported throughout the specification, drawings and original claims. No new matter has been added.

Addressing claim 16, the combination of Choi and Hsu does not disclose or suggest at least wherein said connecting member is inserted into said second engagement portion but not into said first engagement portion, as recited in the claim.

Choi discloses a portable computer having a hinge part but does not disclose the above-noted claimed features. Choi merely discloses a cable that passes through the center of a swiveling part of a hinge as illustrated in Fig. 4. Hsu does not cure the deficiencies of Choi. Hsu discloses horizontal shafts 3 within which a cable may be placed through a hole 31 in the shaft 3 (column 3, lines 4-7). Hsu, however, does not disclose or suggest wherein said connecting

member is inserted into said second engagement portion but not into said first engagement portion, as recited in claim.

On the other hand, as claimed by Applicants, only one opening and closing shaft is employed and a second engagement portion has the connecting member arranged therein. The connecting member is not inserted into the first engagement portion which has the perpendicular opening and closing shaft inserted therein.

Since both Choi and Hsu rely on two horizontal opening and closing shafts, the references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest wherein said connecting member is inserted into said second engagement portion but not into said first engagement portion. Further, since the references do not disclose all of the claimed elements, it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the references as attempted by the Examiner.

Accordingly, claim 16 is patentable over the attempted combination of Choi and Hsu.

With regard to claim 40, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner did not provide detailed reasoning for the rejection of the claim. However, claim 40 contains features similar to the features recited in claim 16 and is therefore patentable for reasons similar to the reasons that claim 16 is patentable.

Turning to claim 41, the combination of Choi and Hsu does not disclose or suggest at least wherein the connecting member is wound in a space on an extension line of one end side of the perpendicular opening and closing shaft, as recited in the claim.

As noted above, Choi merely discloses a cable passing through the center of a swiveling part of a hinge as illustrated in Fig. 4, and Hsu merely discloses horizontal shafts within which a cable may be placed through a hole in the shaft (column 3, lines 4-7). However, the

combination of Choi and Hsu does not disclose or suggest wherein the connecting member is wound in a space on an extension line of one end side of the perpendicular opening and closing shaft, as recited in the claim.

Since the references do not disclose all of the features claimed by Applicants, it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the references as attempted by the Examiner.

Thus, claim 41 is patentable over the attempted combination of Choi and Hsu.

Claims 24 and 48 have been rejected over 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Choi in view of Hsu and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,813,146 to Haraguchi *et al.* ("Haraguchi"). Applicants traverse this rejection.

Addressing claim 24, the combination of Choi, Hsu and Haraguchi does not disclose or suggest at least wherein said connecting member is inserted into said second engagement portion but not into said first engagement portion as incorporated into the claim by virtue of its dependence from claim 16. As established above, the combination of Choi and Hsu does not disclose or suggest at least these claimed features. Haraguchi does not cure the deficiencies of the attempted Choi-Hsu combination.

The Examiner relies on Haraguchi to allegedly disclose that the devices of Choi and Hsu could be a mobile phone. However, Haraguchi does not disclose or suggest the claimed features deficient in the attempted combination of Choi and Hsu. Accordingly, since the references do not disclose all of the features claimed by Applicants, it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the references as attempted by the Examiner.

Therefore, claim 24 is patentable over the combination of Choi, Hsu and Haraguchi.

With regard to claim 48, the combination of Choi, Hsu and Haraguchi does not disclose or suggest at least wherein the connecting member is wound in a space on an extension line of one end side of the perpendicular opening and closing shaft as incorporated into the claim by virtue of its dependence from claim 41. As established above, the combination of Choi and Hsu does not disclose or suggest at least these claimed features. Haraguchi does not cure the deficiencies of the attempted Choi-Hsu combination.

The Examiner relies on Haraguchi to allegedly disclose that the devices of Choi and Hsu could be a mobile phone. However, Haraguchi does not disclose or suggest the claimed features deficient in the attempted combination of Choi and Hsu. Accordingly, since the references do not disclose all of the features claimed by Applicants, it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the references as attempted by the Examiner.

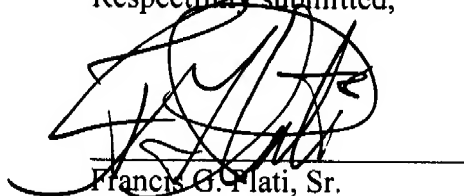
Therefore, claim 24 is patentable over the combination of Choi, Hsu and Haraguchi.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis G. Plati, Sr.", written over a horizontal line.

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